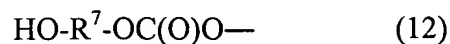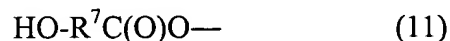residue containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups being the same or different, provided that when a plurality of R^1 or R^2 groups occur, they may be the same or different; Y represents a hydroxyl group or a hydrolyzable group, provided that when a plurality of Y groups occur, they may be the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2, and m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that the condition $a + mb \geq 1$ should be satisfied;

$HO-R^6$—	(8)
$HO-R^7-O$—	(9)
$HO-R^7-OC(O)$ —	(10)
$HO-R^7C(O)O$—	(11)
$HO-R^7-OC(O)O$—	(12)

wherein R^6 represents an alkylene group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an arylene group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkylene group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms, which may contain one or more ether bonds; and R^7 represents an alkylene group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an arylene group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkylene group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms, and may contain one or more ether bonds; and

said vinyl polymer being obtained by polymerization of a monomer containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of a (meth)acrylic monomer, a styrenic monomer and a nitrile-containing vinyl monomer.

17. (Amended)   The polymer according to claim 13, wherein its main chain is a (meth)acrylic polymer.

20. (Amended)   The polymer according to claim 13 as produced by converting a terminal halogen group of the halogen-terminated vinyl polymer to a crosslinking silyl containing substituent or a hydroxyl-containing substituent.

21. (Amended)   The crosslinking silyl-terminated vinyl polymer according to claim 13, wherein Y in general formula (1) is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl, alkoxyl, ketoximate, amino, amido, aminoxyl, mercapto or alkenyloxyl group, provided that when a plurality of Y groups occur, they may be the same or different with each other.

Please add new claims 24 and 25 as follows: